

Adopted: March 9, 2021

**ACADEMIC SENATE
of
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
San Luis Obispo, CA**

AS-915-21

RESOLUTION TO SET CAL POLY'S CARBON NEUTRALITY TARGET DATE

1 WHEREAS, President Armstrong made Cal Poly a Charter Signatory to the Climate
2 Leadership Commitment in 2016, establishing a goal for Cal Poly to
3 achieve net zero carbon emissions from all sources as soon as possible
4 (currently set for 2050); and
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6 WHEREAS, The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
7 has determined that we have less than ten years to make urgent and
8 unprecedented changes to our carbon emissions to avoid the worst impacts
9 of climate change; and
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11 WHEREAS, The Cal Poly Statement on Diversity seeks to develop awareness and
12 empathy for global communities, including people who are from
13 historically and societally marginalized and underrepresented groups; and
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15 WHEREAS, Failure to reduce carbon emissions will result in increased risk of
16 devastating hurricanes, flooding, droughts, fire, and food scarcity for
17 hundreds of millions of people, especially for marginalized and
18 underrepresented global populations most vulnerable to the impacts of
19 climate change; and
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21 WHEREAS, A 2050 target date arrives too late to prevent needless adverse impacts;
22 and
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24 WHEREAS, The City of San Luis Obispo has set a Carbon Neutrality date of 2035; and
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26 WHEREAS, Cal Poly's carbon emissions link inextricably with the carbon emissions of
27 the City of San Luis Obispo; and
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29 WHEREAS, The entire University of California system has set a target of 2025 for
30 carbon neutrality, and at least six CSU campuses have all set goals for
31 carbon neutrality by 2030 or sooner, all of which are consistent with the
32 targets of the IPCC report on climate change; and
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35 WHEREAS, By utilizing the Cal Poly Climate Action Plan dated April 26,
36 2017, accelerating the decrease of scope 1, 2, and 3 greenhouse gas
37 emissions, and accounting for carbon offsets, Cal Poly can soon achieve
38 Carbon Neutrality; therefore be it
39

40 RESOLVED: That the Academic Senate recommends that Cal Poly update the goal it set
41 for Cal Poly to achieve net zero carbon emissions to 2030 or sooner.

Proposed by: Sustainability Committee
Date: January 5, 2021



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

MEMORANDUM

To: Thomas Gutierrez

Date: May 13, 2021

From: Jeffery D. Armstrong

Jeffery D. Armstrong

Copies: Cynthia Jackson-Elmoore
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Subject: Response to AS-915-21 Resolution to Set Cal Poly's Carbon Neutrality Target Date

By way of this memo, I acknowledge the above-entitled Academic Senate resolution and the underlying intention to continue to advance Cal Poly as a higher education leader in sustainability and climate change work. I recognize the reality of the climate crisis and commit to making progress in reducing Cal Poly's carbon footprint. All of which aligns with Goal 7D of our strategic plan: "Ensure the sustainability of the whole campus environment by making it smart, resilient and carbon neutral."

Please extend my thanks to the members of the Academic Senate and the Sustainability Committee for their attention to this important matter.